

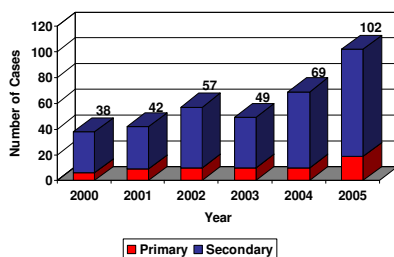
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Health



**The Status of Infectious  
Syphilis, Washington, DC,  
2000-2005\***

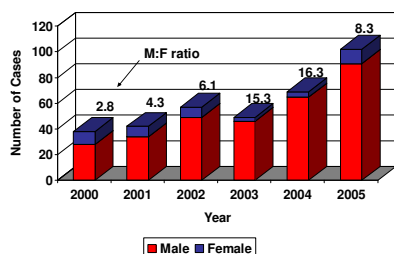
Primary and secondary syphilis  
is still on the rise in Washington,  
DC.

**Figure 1. Infectious Syphilis,  
Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



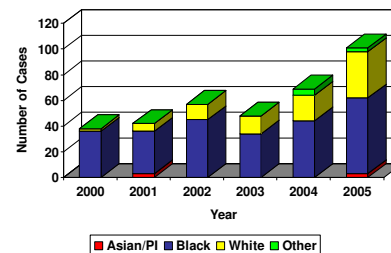
In fact, the number of infectious  
syphilis cases reported in the  
District increased 168% from  
2000 to 2005 (Figure 1).

**Figure 2. Infectious Syphilis by  
Sex, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



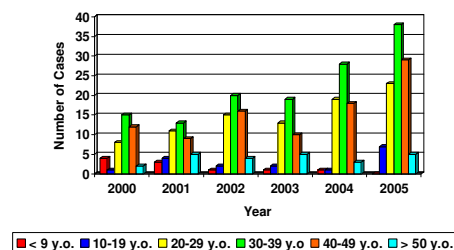
Cases were predominantly  
reported among men (Figure  
2)...

**Figure 3. Infectious Syphilis by  
Race, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



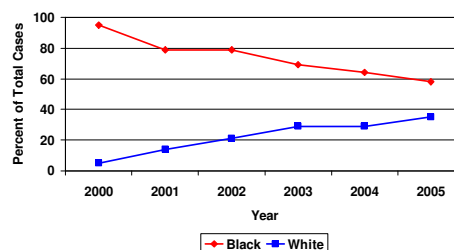
...African Americans (Figure  
3)...

**Figure 4. Infectious Syphilis, by Age  
Category, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



...and those 30-39 years of age  
(Figure 4).

**Figure 5. Percent of Infectious Syphilis  
Cases Reported, by Race, Washington,  
DC, 2000-2005\***

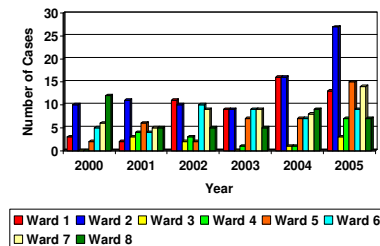


It is a common miscon-ception  
that syphilis only affects African  
Americans from Southeast  
Washington, DC. In reality, the  
percentage of cases reported  
among Blacks has been  
gradually decreasing while the

percentage of cases reported among Whites has been gradually increasing (Figure 5).

In addition, cases are being reported from all over Washington, DC.

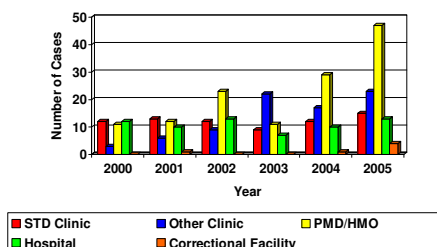
**Figure 6. Infectious Syphilis, by Ward, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



In 2000, the greatest number of cases was reported in Ward 8, but, in 2005, the greatest number of cases was reported in Ward 2 (Figure 6).

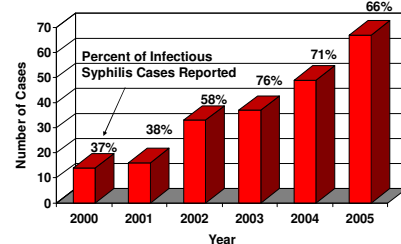
The location of diagnosis has also been shifting – in 2000, 32 % of infectious syphilis cases were reported from the Southeast STD Clinic while 29 % of cases were reported from private MDs and HMOs.

**Figure 7. Infectious Syphilis, by Provider Type, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



In 2005, only 15 % of infectious syphilis cases were reported from the Southeast STD Clinic, 46 % of cases were reported from private MDs and HMOs, and 13 % of cases were reported from hospitals (Figure 7).

**Figure 8. Infectious Syphilis Among MSM, Washington, DC, 2000-2005\***



Of note, although the number of infectious syphilis cases reported among men who have sex with men (MSM) has been gradually increasing, the percentage of total cases reported peaked in 2003 at 76 % (Figure 8).

If you have any questions regarding syphilis or the reporting of notifiable diseases, please call the STD Control Program at (202) 727-9861 or (202) 727-9863.

Please disseminate this information as widely as possible.

\* All 2005 data is preliminary.